



## ARCHITECTURE AND CIVILISATION.

Adjourned Discussion at the Sixth Informal Conference (the second on this subject) held at the Royal Institute of British Architects, 18th April 1917.

CHAIRMAN: MR. F. W. TROUP [F.].

THE CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary for me to recapitulate what took place at the first conference, on the 24th of January last. You have already seen a full report of that meeting in the JOURNAL for February. I may just remind you, perhaps, that we had papers from Messrs. Lethaby and Wilson on the subject under discussion—"Architecture and Civilisation." Messrs. Beresford Pite, Richardson and Dunn spoke at some length, and Messrs. Lanchester and Weir each made a few remarks, giving us hopes that they would make further comments at the adjourned meeting fixed for to-day. Of those whose names were given at the first meeting as being willing to take part, two, owing to the adjournment, were not given an opportunity to speak—viz. Messrs. Ricardo and Crompton—and I was in hopes that both might now add their quota to the conference to-day. I shall ask them to speak first, unless Prof. Lethaby, as originator of these Conferences and introducer of this particular subject, cares to make any preliminary remarks.

MR. HALSEY RICARDO [F.]: I would like to follow on *à propos* of certain things that Mr. Weir said which impressed me as really touching the root of things. One of those was that architecture was an index of the feeling of the time, and the other was the importance of education. I think we are liable, every now and then, not to take into account the importance of general feeling, and are inclined to suppose that the great men who periodically appear are pioneers, leaders, and makers of things. Take the revival of Gothic architecture, which was a very great thing of its kind. We are inclined to associate it with the personal work of men like Pugin and Butterfield and Street, forgetting that those men were really the index of a very strong feeling that backed them up. Without that immense popular force behind them, theirs would have been merely sporadic individual efforts and would not have had anything like the effect we know they did have. The same sort of force of public feeling affected the Pre-Raphaelites, and affected the poetry of the time. One talks of Ruskin

and Madox Brown, of Rossetti, Morris, and so on, but what gave them their power was the great feeling that was behind them, which may be interpreted as a protest against the eighteenth-century quietism. What was natural in those days was that the people, dissatisfied with the spirit of their time, should be looking for some jumping-off place, some place from which they might rise to more passionate heights and proceed. The unfortunate thing was that they kept their eyes turned so severely backward that when they got to the platform, or jumping-off place, no one jumped off: it became a question of correctness and of academic knowledge, of archaeology, and things like that. And so we sank back into another form of quietism, that is to say, a certain complacent acceptance of things as they were, a state of mind in which it was supposed that matters would go on well enough, provided they were given sufficient time. I remember, many years ago, talking to Professor Lethaby and saying I thought what would be good for us would be to be shocked out of this feeling of smug contentment, that it was of no use for us to hope that Afghans, or other people of that ilk, would invade us, and therefore the best thing would be to put a revolver in the hand of every lunatic there was in the asylums and turn them into the streets with instructions to fire off the whole of their ammunition at all and sundry. Well, that is the sort of thing that has happened. We are now under a condition of things which will bring about—I was going to say our having a clean slate, though that is not quite what I mean. But as to our future, we all realise that we must hold together, that there must be more communal feeling, there must be less satisfaction with individual things. And so, with this in view, we come to the question of education. And what I would like to see, if it could be done, would be for the Institute to memorialise the Minister of Education, on the ground that he has now got the chance given by a clean slate of seeing that everywhere there shall be a great teaching of the virtue of citizenship. That is what made Athens great, geographically a paltry place with no natural advantages,

and it has remained great in our estimation ever since. The sense of citizenship is what has also made other places famous.

And, besides direct education in citizenship, I would like it also represented to the Minister, as part of the education of a citizen, that one of the characteristics of architecture that can be taught in the schools is that of orderliness, which at present we have rather lost sight of. Of course, there is the danger about insisting upon definite orderliness, seeing that architecture, being a living art, must develop and must progress; and there is a sort of order, charming in its way, which might be described as crystalline order, a final sort of order. Things may be very orderly, like the forming of a crystal, but when once formed there is no progression. On the other hand, there is the orderliness of growth, like that of the growing oak or the beech tree. We have to deal with an art which is vital, one full of life and of growth, an architecture suitable for towns which are full of life and growth and development. But we still want to keep to orderliness, which at present we have not got.

And one way of educating that, I think, would be also by representing to the Minister of Education that the teaching of crafts in the schools would help a great deal in that way; that when you work with your hands you discover the conditions of cleanliness, of accuracy, and of finish; you also discover that there is a kind of finality to good work. You discover that the drudgery of it is pleasant, instead of being unpleasant, as much education is. And there is so much less to unlearn; much which you do is good for all time. And then you have an appreciation of what is not good work, as well.

Another point that I want to put before you has nothing to do with the Minister of Education. I think we do not sufficiently recognise the part that women have played in architecture. I put it in this way. If I remember rightly, Mr. Dunn said that the thing we have done of late most successfully has been our house, particularly our country-house, architecture, especially in regard to the interior arrangements of the house, and I think that is due to the fact that women have insisted on having their say in the matter. It has been very inconvenient and disturbing to our architectural omniscience, but it has produced a result that I think we can pride ourselves upon. And if that kind of co-operation can be extended it will make our streets and towns more decent and orderly.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will you bring that forward as a resolution, Mr. Ricardo?

MR. RICARDO: It might be put in the form of a resolution that the Institute should memorialise the Minister of Education on the lines I have been talking about.

MR. W. E. VERNON CROMPTON [*F.*] read the following Paper: Many of the points for this Paper were jotted down some time ago and have already been discussed in part at the meeting in January last.

I hope, however, that you may think them of sufficient importance to warrant further emphasis if considered from another aspect.

Professor Lethaby deserves our thanks for bringing before the Institute definitely and with considerable breadth of view a type of subject which has been overlooked by us as a body. We are so bourgeois in outlook, so respectable and correct in attitude, that it is hardly considered the thing to concern ourselves with architecture in relation to the sense of order, economy and fitness and the many other qualities, values and activities which form the basis of civilisation—architecture and political economy, in fact.

Professor Lethaby's Paper was to a considerable extent a discussion of misbehaviour and bad manners. Now it is against this background of bad manners, this disorderly and inept type of life, that architecture is silhouetted, and indeed the whole of the things we have been discussing at these conferences. This is disconcerting in that it makes so difficult architectural education and the other schemes in which we are interested. However admirable may be our schemes of architectural education, however pious the resolutions which we may pass in this room, they will always remain schemes or ideas working in a vacuum unless they coincide fairly with the sense of values of the nation at large.

Ateliers and schools, to be really effective, must reflect the sense of values of the layman and not the reverse. If the former obtain, you have architecture growing naturally out of the life of the times; if the latter, you have a priesthood imposing upon the people a mystery they cannot understand. The late Mr. March Phillipps tried his best to get the Englishman to realise in his heart, not merely to assent with his mind, that the architecture of a civilisation was one of the most valid pieces of evidence whereby the spiritual and intellectual attainments of that civilisation could be measured. We are getting exactly the type of architecture we deserve or can understand, a type at once ineffective yet dominant, incoherent yet expressive, virulent yet banal, subservient to prescription and yet anarchic. It is difficult, however, for us to get away from our sentimental middle-class notions that the modern English home, the modern English factory, is a model for all the world. In stark reality the vast majority of English homes and factories, built, say, within the last ten years, are our disgrace.

The relation of civilisation and architecture is one of cause and effect: the intellectual life or civilisation will give the intellectual architecture. The sensuous life will produce the sensuous art, and so on. If the architecture of the present time is anarchic it shows that the civilisation of our time has muddled ideas and an irrational way of thinking. To seek to improve the architecture of this country by improving the education of architects is excellent as far as it goes, but it is a more essential if less obvious duty, not only as citizens but as architects, to put our energies into altering ideas about elementary and public school

education and all those other matters which direct the currents of our civilisation. Only by so regarding things can we avoid the error of putting the cart before the horse.

Although the relation of life and architecture is one of cause and effect, it would be a mistake for us to consider that the condition of architecture in any country at any time is a *primary* effect of life or civilisation: it is merely a *secondary* effect produced by secondary causes. If we are dissatisfied with the condition of architecture and wish to get at the real reason for its lamentable state we must pass over these secondary relations, such as the influence of the competitive contract system, the decline of technique in the crafts, building for the purpose of profiteering and dividends, etc., upon architecture, and get back to those that are primary. This is what I shall try to do.

History shows that civilisations cannot run for long upon an even keel: they are always subject to shocks, but these shocks are not necessarily detrimental—in many cases they may be invigorating unless they are so extreme as to prevent the civilisation adapting itself, in which case dislocation occurs in the organism and the civilisation either breaks down or goes under; is altered or weakened. Has there been such a dislocation to which our civilisation has not been able fully to adapt itself? I believe there has, and in tracing it we shall hope to touch upon the primary cause of which I have spoken. This would be a task of considerable difficulty when we take into account the multitude of causes, currents, factors, reasons—call them what you will—at work in the world: unless we remember that the most powerful cause or set of causes, in fact the root cause of change in our latter-day civilisations, is in its nature economic.

If we wish to have a clear idea as to what is wrong with architecture at its root we must cease to confine our discussions to styles, education, or æsthetics, the disorder of our streets, sound building, etc., for to do so would be merely to consider effects, leaving causes untouched. That which has thrown architecture off its balance is synonymous with that which has dislocated our civilisation.

As architects in search for this economic cause, let us recall to mind the nature of eighteenth-century civilisation. We see there the gradual extinction of an aristocratic class with the power and wealth: having a modicum of scholarship sufficient to keep alive a tradition which it was able to impose upon a people who had for the most part a definite status. Everything was homogeneous and oriented in the same direction: the means of the civilisation—as regards the art of building—were sufficient for the end in view. At the present day there is no aristocracy to speak of, but a plutocracy with no particular scholarship and no particular tradition: a plutocracy unable to impose anything but a stray fashion upon a common people who, in their turn, are mainly wage-earners without status.

It is difficult to find a condensed and general formula to describe the economic cause for this change, a cause behind which it is not necessary, here and now, for us to go; but it may be sufficient to formulate the cause by saying that since the latter half of the eighteenth century man's control over certain physical forces has developed with extreme rapidity and at the expense of his powers in other directions. Hence the want of balance, the dislocation in our civilisation, and the chief reason—speaking in general terms—of the troubles we are discussing. Bergson, in *L'Évolution Créatrice*, touches upon this idea as follows: "Nos habitudes individuelles et même sociales survivent assez longtemps aux circonstances pour lesquelles elles étaient faites, de sorte que les effets profonds d'une invention se font remarquer lorsque nous en avons déjà perdu de vue la nouveauté. Un siècle a passé depuis l'invention de la machine à vapeur, et nous commençons seulement à ressentir la secousse profonde qu'elle nous a donnée. La révolution qu'elle a opérée dans l'industrie n'en a pas moins bouleversé les relations entre les hommes. Des idées nouvelles se lèvent. Des sentiments nouveaux sont en voie d'éclore. . . . Elle servira à définir un âge."

The economic situation arising from man's control over certain physical forces, developing with extreme rapidity and at the expense of his powers in other directions, coming as it did in a relatively sudden manner, resulted in giving great wealth to some and as a consequence poverty to others in directions where there had been no great wealth or abject poverty previously. Wealth accrued to a class of the community to whom the planning of Bath and Bloomsbury made no appeal; in whom the down-at-heel contrivances of modern life produced no jar.

Considered economically, wealth is power over the lives of others; considered also economically, civilisation is a method of distributing wealth. Understanding this will enable us to appreciate that herein lies the factor which brought about the gradual extinction of the aristocratic influence of the eighteenth century—the Bladesover tradition of Wells—that aristocratic tradition which gave us Bowwood and Prior Park, a tradition which can never return in spite of the hopes of some. Herein, also, lies the factor which has produced Holborn and the Strand, which has destroyed the craftsman with his status under the aristocrat and has given us the hand under the plutocrat. All this is of vital importance to architecture; but, judging from the amount of attention given to the subject by this Institute, it might not concern us at all. We have the means whereby an income of £50,000 can be accomplished, but we have not the means whereby it can be spent properly. We have the means whereby half a million can be earmarked for building, but we have not the means whereby to avoid sweating our labourers.

I do not overlook the fact that similar conditions have prevailed in civilisations which produced great art. But if the matter be studied in detail, I think

you will find that the difference in degree between these present and past phases is so great as almost to amount to a difference in kind. All civilisations can withstand, and have withstood, the strain arising from unstable conditions up to a point; that point was passed in England early in the nineteenth century. Hence the result! Architects must grasp clearly and without evasion, shuffle or compromise the nature of the economic cause which has produced the primary effect of dislocation which in turn produces the secondary effect upon architecture.

By all means let us hammer at the political administrators and the municipal authorities, but in nine cases out of ten you will find ignorant and unsympathetic ears and eyes, because they are the ears and eyes of those who from their elementary or public school life onwards have not been bred to attach much importance to many of those things which, I trust, we in this room consider as vital to our survival as a great nation. The machinery is there to do a great deal, but not the knowledge or goodwill. The whole lump of things must be leavened, but the day has gone by when the upper portion of the lump can be leavened and the lower portion left.

Half a century of spade-work is ahead of us in a State at present but partly democratised, slow work with meagre results before a foundation can be prepared upon which a civilisation can be raised which will not misbehave itself continually and be open to Professor Lethaby's just indictments. The aristocratic age is gone for good; in the democratic age before us we shall not be able to produce excellent architecture unless the people live an excellent life. It is, therefore, time for this Institute to lay aside its aloofness and to go down into the arena as a propagandist body anxious to ally itself with engineers, master builders and trades unionists, having a lively faith which it should set forth in a tractarian literature thoroughly well written. We have spread ourselves very agreeably over the English Renaissance, the formal garden and suchlike important pleasantries; we should now voice our convictions not only upon the five or six excellent suggestions mentioned by Professor Lethaby, but also upon the relation of the architect and his work to all the vital economic problems by which we are being stifled.

Architecture for some time past appears to have slipped off the true line of the evolution of things, partly because great architecture cannot exist in an irreligious civilisation, but partly because we ourselves have shut our eyes to the reality of things.

I have intentionally been somewhat provocative, and I trust you do not think I have been talking around the point.

MR. H. V. LANCHESTER [F.]: May it not be suggested that the entire attitude of the architectural profession as represented by the professional societies in relation both to the public and to architects is in need of drastic revision, and that the present moment,

when ideas are in the melting pot, is a suitable time to effect a change in this respect? The claim that this is the moment to forward any proposition for a reorganisation of our professional activities is reinforced by the fact that most of our younger men are in the Forces, and that it is the duty of those who are not to see that on their return to the ranks of the profession every practicable opening is made for them to take up their work again. With this in view it will surely be best that those who have not a definite position to which to return should be placed with special regard to their faculties, present and potential. It is not for us to look at their claims in a narrow spirit. After all, they represent nearly half the effectiveness of our profession during the coming decades. However, this is only one aspect of our problem, and one that, though it looms largely at the moment, is none the less subservient to the main argument in favour of an effort to raise the efficiency of the profession as a whole. Taking first the position of architects towards the public. Our most important duty is to endeavour to ensure that the nation secures the best architecture possible. We are not exonerated from this duty by the fact that the public is incapable of securing this by its own efforts. To commence with, if we as a body took a greater interest in the problems linked up with our special sphere of activity, such as social and educational questions, these sympathies would bring us in return a clearer appreciation of our own work. Again, may it not be possible to offer the public a more easy road by which to obtain a higher standard of design in buildings of all classes? Is it going too far to say that to the artist and inventor a fully occupied life is worth far more than the amassing of surplus wealth which can only be utilised in buying inferior recreation? The appreciation of this fact frees us from the obsession that we need to receive more than a reasonable competence from our efforts, as even then our life is a fuller one than that of those less happily occupied. Once convinced of this, we are at liberty to organise our energies in such a manner as will best lead to fine architecture, and to eliminate factors discouraging this.

Before carrying my argument further, may I demand your acceptance as an axiom the assertion that everyone enjoys best the type of work in which he is most skilful; and the further one, that the field covered by the practice of architecture is so broad that a greater degree of specialisation is admissible? These views have been widely accepted in the United States, where the large offices include men of varied types of qualification. I think it may be claimed that architecture has been the gainer; and, though we may not wish to organise exactly on these lines, it will be well to bear in mind the fact that by this means those whose capacities differ are working much more efficiently than by our individualistic system. It will probably be felt that the genius of our own country is not quite in harmony



with these large organisations, but is it not possible to secure some of the advantages without such a pronounced sacrifice of personal initiative?

The aim I have in mind is that more of our buildings should show the hand of the genuine architect rather than that of one to whom even the achievement of some simulation of the real thing is a laborious effort. We have in our ranks men of highly developed artistic faculties who under our individualistic system devote but a tithe of their time to the exercise of these. We have sound and ingenious planners and constructors who are called upon to go outside their own sphere to an almost equal extent. We have those whose skill lies in the tactful handling of difficulties; those who are specially capable as business organisers in respect to building work; indeed, it is not possible to classify all the shades of ability and temperament.

It would be waste of time to recite the various haphazard expedients now employed as correctives. You can all depict them for yourselves, and are probably fully aware of the extent to which they fail in respect to our avowed aim of securing the best architecture we can conceive of as possible. We can see the reasons why they fail, and know that not the least of these is the limited outlook we ourselves have taken in regard to our practice of our profession. Is it not time, amid the general revision of ideals, to consider whether we cannot broaden this outlook and discover a means of reorganising architectural work on lines conducive to better architecture and increased general efficiency? Whatever we may be able to do for the future by improved methods of education and other measures, the fact remains that the profession offers employment for more than the number we can hope to find gifted with the faculty of architectural expression, and the problem will remain of getting the best possible output from the limited number so gifted. The French Government attempts this by the preferential treatment it accords to the selected class of architects "diplômés," but we are hardly likely to get much immediate help from our own Government, already overburdened with more general problems. Our clients, the public, are not in a position to appreciate the difficulties. If anything is to be done we must do it for ourselves—but how? That is the question before us.

Now, assuming that we have the best will in the world with regard to co-operating with our professional brethren, it is not easy to see how such co-operation is to be effective, even with the most altruistic intentions, except by means of a professional society. Such a society must do more, in two ways at least, than has been customary hitherto. First, it must find a way to secure closer personal contact between all its members; secondly, it must see that special qualities exhibited by any of its members receive adequate recognition and opportunity. Take our own Institute. I think it is quite wrong that any member should be allowed to ignore its existence

from the day he joins to that on which he dies or retires. There are so many things that we might do, but don't, that everyone ought to take a share in the work appropriate to the stages of his career. From the moment of entry as a student there should be someone at hand from whom advice and help may be sought; and such relationships should continue. I will not weary you with details of method, as one need merely point to the fighting services as offering a hint as to how members of a corporate body may be grouped and kept in touch with each other. This, effectively done, facilitates the second requirement—namely, that merit should be promptly recognised and rewarded. It would be much easier to influence public bodies, and even other prospective employers of architects, if the Institute were recognised as devoting its chief interest to the advancement of the standard of architectural achievement without suspicion of professional bias or aggrandisement. We have already gone some way in justifying this claim, though but a short distance compared with that to be covered if we are to earn the confidence of the public that when it places itself in our hands as an adviser we as a body will act unreservedly in the interests of the community in respect to architecture, and will treat our own members as an organisation to be utilised, in groups or individually, in exactly the way by which the public interest will best be served, and in no other.

There are societies in existence which have been formed to do the work that we should be doing. The London Society, the National Housing Society, the Garden Cities Association, are all doing work that it is the proper function of this Institute to do. We have ignored it, and other people have taken it up. The consequence is that they are in touch with the vital forces in the country, while we seem to be sitting in the clouds.

We know that there is no recreation that bears comparison with the exercise of our own craft. By this closer contact it will be more easy for us to take up our work in the most efficient way. We need not all be shut off in our individual cubicles, to try and struggle through the work as best we can. When we know that another man can do a certain part of our work better than we can ourselves, we should frankly admit him into our band, with the single object in mind that we are giving the best we can to the public, who, after all, are the people to be considered. If we see that a man has made particularly good progress in a certain direction, he should have better opportunities afforded him than he gets at present of "making good." Take the case of the man who has won his spurs by studying design: he is often in a worse position than the man is who has made no effort at all in this direction. I should like to see the public able to place themselves in our hands as their advisers with regard to architecture and the questions that are linked up with it. A resolution has been drafted on the lines of Mr. Lethaby's opening which I will read:

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"We wish to suggest to the Council of the R.I.B.A. that the time has come when matters of public architecture should be their main concern, especially at the evening meetings and in education: also to consider the possibility of developing our organisation on lines bringing our members into closer touch with each other. And, further, that it is desirable that a constructive policy for bettering all our towns be considered, as well as national housing and such questions. In promoting a policy of public usefulness the Institute might best find the way of its own proper development and status."

PROFESSOR LETHABY: I would like to second that resolution.

MR. LANCHESTER: The other resolution which has been suggested, with regard to the Minister of Education being approached, might form a separate resolution.

MR. ROBERT S. WEIR: The remarks that have been made seem to cover the ground I had in my mind. With regard to Mr. Ricardo's proposal, I shall be only too glad to support his resolution. There is a good deal taking place now. The Minister of Education is putting forward a scheme for the revision of the education of the country. Such matters are included as crafts training, and giving apprentices time in working hours to attend training schools for such instruction as they cannot get in their workshops. Various bodies are working practically on the lines that have been suggested. I hope it will all bear fruit, and that as a result we shall get a proper system of education running concurrently right on from the elementary school to the University.

MR. H. M. FLETCHER [F.]: I would like to support very strongly what Mr. Ricardo said about education. It seems logical that the discussion at the last meeting should have tended more and more, as it went on, towards the subject of education, because without education there is no continuity, and without continuity there is no civilisation. We should also support Mr. Weir's contention, that the education of most importance to us is elementary education. And I would like to add that the faculty which most needs training in our education, because it is the one which, generally, has been most grievously neglected, is the eye. There are so few Englishmen who really see anything. I have been in the habit at various times of going for country walks with a body of men, of whom several are civil servants, who, I suppose, represent the top of the present system of education. They are all of them "sand-blind, high-gravel-blind": they walk about the country without seeing anything at all: their eyes are covered with a horny substance. If one started with young children, training their eyes merely to look at things and think about the impressions produced, the whole attitude and outlook of the people we have to build for would be entirely different. Everybody in this room has come across the man who says "he wants his house made comfortable inside: he does not care what the outside looks like." It is

the most humiliating confession a man can make. He ought to be hurt and injured by things that affront his eyes, but he "does not care." If you point out to him that as well as sitting inside his house he probably spends a good deal of his time in his garden looking at his house, the statement generally comes to him as an entire revelation. Often he thinks there is something in it, but it has not occurred to him before. He is not to blame for that, because he has never been properly taught the use of his eyes. I think you will find that that is a specially English fault. If you talk to a French layman, or to most foreigners, or to Americans, you will find they can meet you more or less on your own ground: they have ideas in common with those of architects. In America it is striking how much architecture is a subject of ordinary conversation: quite intelligent people there know the names of the most prominent architects! That has been largely due to the sort of spade-work that McKim did, which was on the lines which Mr. Lanchester and others have suggested. The American Institute of Architects is known as a force to be reckoned with. I believe that when McKim was President, he got together all the most important men whom he knew—and he knew most of the men who count in America—and forced the Institute upon them. And we want some strong man, or some strong body of men, to do the same thing here, because, as Mr. Ricardo said, we cannot work in an environment which is entirely ignorant of and unsympathetic towards the ideas for which we are working out: it is like swimming in jelly.

As to the sort of education to aim for, that is rather a matter of detail. I do not think it should be specifically architectural education, because if you get general education in architecture given to the public, you will need a large staff of people to do it, and that means you have to get in people who have no special education in building. Such people always fall back on the historical aspect of architecture. That is a food which the architect can swallow, because he has so much to correct it: he has his own planning and designing, and his knowledge of construction, and so forth, which serve to dilute the historical aspect. But the ordinary layman is fascinated by the historical aspect, because it is a very interesting subject, and it gives him mental indigestion, because he has not the chance to dilute it with other aspects. But if you give general training to the eye by means of draughtsmanship, and careful walks down Holborn and the Strand, such as Professor Lethaby recommended for architects, I think these would benefit the general public. If you vary that with walks in districts where the buildings are homogeneous, like Queen Anne's Gate and Bedford Square, to show the difference and how things designed as a whole fall together, whatever their style, in twenty or thirty years' time there will be a very different environment for architects to work in, and a much more hopeful one. I would like to support Mr. Ricardo's resolution suggesting that the new Minister of Education be attacked.

MR. LANCHESTER: I should like, as an object-lesson, to point to the miserably attenuated list of Honorary Members of this Institute: it is so very atrophied, compared with what it ought to be.

THE CHAIRMAN: This is Mr. Ricardo's resolution: "That the Institute should represent to the Minister of Education the importance of insisting, in all the universities and schools under his charge, on education in the duties of citizenship in relation to the amenities of our towns and cities, and the value of manual instruction in mental development."

MR. WEIR: I will second that with pleasure.

MR. JEMMETT: Would it be worth while to deal with that subject as a whole, that is to say, the improvement we want in the general education of the country? A resolution might be drawn up embodying other points also, besides those raised by Mr. Ricardo and Mr. Fletcher. There is Mr. Fletcher's very interesting point about the training of the eye. If we put all those resolutions down, and put them on one side for a discussion, thinking them over meanwhile, we may get a general resolution dealing with the whole question of the education of the layman, as it were, from our point of view.

MR. LANCHESTER: The next Conference will be on Education.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: We could then explain it and expand it.

MR. WEIR: That is a wider resolution. The next Conference is on the education of the architect—a more limited subject than is set out in this resolution, which speaks of the education of the citizen.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: I think we should take this now.

MR. JEMMETT: It has been pointed out that we cannot get good architecture unless we have good civilisation. Many of us have been feeling it for years. The first requirement is that the people shall live a decent sort of life, and have decent civilisation, then we can have decent architecture. We are pointing out defects in civilisation, and in the education which produces bad civilisation. And, in my mind, there is associated with it the question how to educate the ordinary citizen now to produce a decent, well-ordered civilisation, so that we, in our turn, can get well-ordered architecture. I thought if you were going to deal with the education of the layman at all, you might deal with it in a wider way.

MR. LANCHESTER: Could there not be a preamble to that resolution?

MR. JEMMETT: I think other points might be brought up, and the whole welded into one resolution dealing with the education of the public. The point which occurred to me is, that the public is not educated, it is only educated mentally: its emotions are not educated, the very feeling of a man is not developed; there is no culture in the country, broadly speaking. That is a point which might well be brought before the Minister of Education if we agree

to approach him. That is how I think of it. By degrees, after two or three meetings, we might get a whole list of subjects.

MR. WEIR: Probably that would happen in any case. This proposal is to ask the Institute to draw up something regarding education. This resolution will not go to the Minister as it stands: it will go to the Council of the Institute, and they might draw up a proper comprehensive resolution, to be sent to the Minister of Education.

MR. JEMMETT: I do not wish to oppose anything that has been done, but I thought the scope of the resolution might be enlarged before being sent.

THE CHAIRMAN: We sympathise and agree with Mr. Jemmett's views, but there is danger of the matter being postponed indefinitely unless we are careful. There is no reason why this resolution should not go as it is now, and that we should still continue as Mr. Jemmett suggests. We have two resolutions before the meeting, and I understand that Mr. Lanchester will propose a third.

MR. LANCHESTER: My other resolution is: "that the Council of the R.I.B.A. should consider the possibility of developing its organisation on lines tending to bring its members into closer touch with each other."

PROFESSOR ARCHIBALD C. DICKIE [A.]: I should like to say a word on a matter of detail, as to the question of education in so far as it affects the particular school I have experience of, that is to say, in so far as the attitude of the Institute might be improved or altered in order to improve the education of the schools in general.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: That would come in admirably at the next meeting when we are again to discuss the subject of the education of the architect.

THE CHAIRMAN: Will anyone second Mr. Lanchester's third resolution?

MR. CROMPTON: I will second it. And there are two matters of detail and one of principle that I would like to mention. The first of the matters of detail is, that one of the resolutions mentions "public architecture." I do not know what that means. The second point of detail is in reference to education in civic responsibility. I think the Minister of Education might overlook the whole of the point mentioned in Mr. Lethaby's Paper unless it is pressed. The matter of principle I wanted to refer to is, with reference to the developing of the organisation of the R.I.B.A. This is an internal matter only, as I understand, among ourselves. Personally, I should like the question of the development of the organisation to extend. I feel strongly that the whole of the building in this country is on an illogical basis, because the engineers and ourselves are in water-tight compartments. If the development of the organisation could extend so that a working scheme could be arranged between engineers and ourselves, I think that would be a tremendous step forward.

MR. LANCHESTER : I had no idea of excluding other aspects : I put this in as one of the things which I thought were definitely needed.

MR. CROMPTON : Will you add that point of mine to the resolution ?

MR. LANCHESTER : Certainly, if we can put them together ; I think we should be in touch with all activities.

THE CHAIRMAN : All there is in this resolution at present is " with each other."

MR. LANCHESTER : I am willing to extend that. And if we are to extend it, why not extend it to all other activities ? The term " professional bodies " would exclude those having propagandist activities, with which we ought to be in closer touch.

MR. CROMPTON : The art of building construction in this country is on an illogical basis, because engineers are not linked up with ourselves. To use the term " professional bodies " would bring in the medical and other professions which are not kindred : it is an organisation to include all the kindred building activities that is required.

SIR JOHN BURNET, R.S.A., LL.D. : I think it is right, and profound common sense, that we should link ourselves up with any societies—trade or professional—connected with " building construction " in the widest interpretation of that term. We take a very grave responsibility in proposing to give so many professional men, so many craftsmen, and brother artists, work to do, which, when completed, should result in fit and beautiful structures ; and that responsibility needs to be backed up by friendly association with those men whom we ask to place themselves under the influence of our designs, the artistic merits of which depend so much on our intelligent appreciation of, and sympathy with, their work and ideals. Ours cannot be a rule " by order " and " specification " alone, but by sympathy and by understanding. Therefore I think if by any language you can alter Mr. Lanchester's motion to include them—Societies, Crafts, or whatever they may call themselves—it will be one of the strongest motions on the subject yet brought before the Institute.

MR. CROMPTON : The people whom we should be linked up with are the engineers.

SIR JOHN BURNET : It is our duty to draft contracts with " engineers " and with " masons," " plumbers," and " joiners," etc., all of which crafts are becoming increasingly scientific ; we cannot possibly be " masons," " plumbers," and the rest of it, and therefore the closer we keep in touch with them—and surely we can do so as an Institute without ceasing to be professional men—the better. Would it not serve our purpose if you were to add to that resolution simply a reference to engineers and the building and artistic crafts ?

MR. CROMPTON : It is the civil engineers I had in mind.

SIR JOHN BURNET : Yes.

MR. LANCHESTER : I am in agreement with what Sir John Burnet says, but I want to go further. I think we should be doing wrong to exclude various societies interested in social work and social amelioration. That is the type of society I want this resolution to cover.

THE CHAIRMAN : But you do not include it.

MR. LANCHESTER : I agree to expand it, in the direction indicated by Sir John Burnet and Mr. Crompton, and even then we should not be including people and organisations connected with civilisation and social amelioration.

SIR JOHN BURNET : Like the London Society and others ?

MR. LANCHESTER : Those dealing with housing and social conditions.

SIR JOHN BURNET : I have not, so far, disturbed the meeting because I was deeply interested in the thoughts which have been expressed. I feel that Professor Lethaby has led us into an extremely wide field. We are speaking not only as architects, but as individual citizens, and I think sometimes we have to distinguish in this room very clearly, between what is our duty as citizens and our more specific duty as architects. The first thing that bothers me right away in proposals to advise this or that person, or public body, is, " how about ourselves ? " Is our education sufficiently perfect ? Is the practitioner of architecture sufficiently strong in meeting his duties to really back up this attitude ? Remember we are professional men, and as such we do not propose to give advice except on that on which we are well informed and have had experience. Ought the Institute to tender advice on matters not strictly professional, to a public body, with its education scheme in the position it occupies at present, and while we are having meetings with the object of improving it ? My feeling would be to determine to put " our own house " in order first, we can then fearlessly stand on our feet, both as citizens and as architects.

I do not want to throw cold water on anybody's scheme. I feel very enthusiastic about what I have heard here this afternoon, but for my own part I feel very strongly that in quietly and efficiently doing our own work we have already a tremendously wide field of influence and one in which, as architects, we are essential.

Take the matter of craftsmen. One of the things that have been troubling me for some years now is the system of tendering and its direct effect upon our educational institutions. For Government or Municipal work tenders are often taken from Tom, Dick, or Harry, and this even for very fine work. The architect in his private practice does not so act. I suppose he generally sends a list of proposed tenderers, all of whom he knows to be suitable for the type of work required, to his client, asking him if he desires to add any names to the list. In the case of public work, if



the same routine is followed, often names are added without thought of efficiency, and the architect, on inquiry about such firms, and after examination of work done by them, may have reason to believe that some of them could not do the quality of work required, and is obliged so to report. Nevertheless in some cases such firms are asked to tender, with the result that, even if they are not accepted, a false idea of the fair price of sound work is given. The firms put on the original work were probably good men, having for years a reputation for high-class work, executed in a well-organised shop, by craftsmen for long in their employment, and such a firm is asked to compete in a matter of price against a firm guided, perhaps, by a capitalist, but one who had no knowledge of, or practice in, the high-class work required, who was simply "out for profits."

If that is to remain the condition of things, how are such good firms to continue to exist? And if they do not exist who will employ the product of the technical college—he is of little use to the other type of firm whose wage is generally low, and whose men are constantly changing.

We are all hoping that the technical college is doing something, but I think Prof. Lethaby strongly believes—certainly I do myself—that the unalloyed technical college will not do. There must be "good shops" in which men may find employment, giving them some return for expenditure on their education, and a fair guarantee of continuous employment. In other words, a "market" appreciative of the product seems to me the greatest incentive to the success of our technical institutions, and it cannot be expected from the general public till after many years of experience of its real economy; but it may, and should be expected from the Government of the country and its Municipal Authorities, that spend public money in public buildings and in the support of these institutions.

One of the first things I would like us here to do is to put this matter very clearly before the Minister of Education and endeavour to gain his support before approaching any other Government Department. Whatever the individual citizen may do, he must suffer from his own recklessness and want of knowledge if he likes to ask Tom, Dick, or Harry to tender for his work; but is the Government or the Municipality entitled to spend rates and public money on work done in any other way than the best? With the knowledge that what the country requires is highly efficient workmen, they are the source of wealth and more necessary to it than the accumulation of wealth obtained, if it be obtained, by a false economy destructive of the highest traditions of British workmanship. If we could have a list of contractors at this Institute, a signed list, each architect certifying that the work entrusted to each firm had been well and efficiently carried out, would not the existence of such a list stimulate the contractors to earn the approval of the architect in every way they could, so that

they would merit a place upon it? With that habit carried out for two or three years we might confidently approach any Government Department and say, "We have done this, we have got splendid work which has been appreciated by the architects and those most fitted to judge; it is open to you to see; and we want you now in the interests of the country to restrict tendering for public and municipal buildings to firms of the type on our list. This list is not complete; it will be added to from time to time, but only by merit in quality of material and workmanship, never by mere size or importance of contract."

MR. LANCHESTER: This is my amended resolution: "That the Council of the R.I.B.A. consider the possibility of developing its organisation on lines tending to bring its members into closer touch with each other, and with all technical associations and those engaged on a constructive social policy"—it is these last words that I want to bring in—and so on. The reason for including those bodies engaged on a constructive social policy is that several of us have been actively in contact with them. We do not pretend to arrogate to ourselves the position of directors of social policy, but we have certainly learned much, and been able on some occasions to give sound and useful advice on such questions. Therefore it seems to me that as we are asking the Institute to develop its organisation and to get into closer touch with other societies, it is possible that members of the Institute would wish to extend their activities to social organisations. I think there would be benefit in both directions if we were more in touch with those bodies. I do not think that will cut across anything that Sir John Burnet said.

SIR JOHN BURNET: No.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: There are certain words that we are not supposed to use here, and there are certain words that we may use. If you were to say, in the resolution, "constructive policy," it would be much the same, and it would avoid the use of words which would not be in keeping. We are not supposed to use the words "social," or "democracy." If you did you would set up the backs of a large contingent of the Council at once.

MR. LANCHESTER: When you talk about architecture and civilisation, surely social policy is at the very root of the argument. I would rather stand the racket of being shot at for bringing in the word "social" than leave it out. If a better word can be found to carry my meaning, I shall be pleased to substitute it.

MR. CROMPTON: These are the words which matter, and the sooner we use them the better.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: Somebody might say, "At last, socialism."

MR. FLETCHER: I second the proposition.

THE CHAIRMAN: There are now three resolutions.

MR. JOHN CASH [F.]: I am delighted with all that has been said. I am something of a politician

myself and particularly anxious about social affairs, and I happen to be a member of an education committee. What I feel is, that architects are not in touch with the public, and they certainly are not in touch with the Press as they ought to be. You hardly ever see architecture mentioned in the ordinary everyday Press, the daily or the weekly journals. Can we get into touch with the public in that direction? Can we ask the Minister of Education to put architecture forward as a study for the scholars even in the elementary schools? The history of architecture is almost as exciting as the history of fighting, of battleships and things of that kind. It might be made very interesting if the Institute would take upon itself to suggest subjects for reading-books. Perhaps some of our members could become authors. Professor Lethaby, for instance, would be an admirable author of juvenile literature dealing with the subject. We might help the Minister of Education in that way, and he, in turn, might help us. There will be no outlook for architecture in England until we have made democracy interested in it as a subject. It has been well said to-day that times have changed, and the eighteenth-century manner of government has gone, and that we are now approaching something like democracy. The people are to be our future masters, and we have to get their ear. And the only way to do that is through the elementary schools and through the public Press. I feel we ought to do a great deal of good by continuing along the lines which have been started at these conferences: there will be very little done unless something of the sort is undertaken.

THE CHAIRMAN: May I take it that it is agreed that the first resolution be sent to the Council of the Institute? Mr. Crompton has questioned the phrase "public architecture" which occurs therein, and I think the term is liable to be misinterpreted: we take an interest in all architecture.

SIR JOHN BURNET: We could say "civil and public architecture."

The resolution thus amended was put, and carried *nem. con.*

THE CHAIRMAN: The second resolution reads: "That the Institute should represent to the Minister of Education the importance of insisting, in all the universities and schools under his charge, on education in the duties of citizenship, also the value of manual work as a moral as well as an intellectual education."

MR. FLETCHER: Is not "the duties of citizenship" a little too wide?

PROFESSOR LETHABY: If Mr. Ricardo would substitute "the amenities of civilisation" it would seem more congruous with architects. Leave out the word "moral." I am profoundly in sympathy with them all, but I am thinking of the reception they may meet with at the Council.

MR. CASH: Some more appropriate words are required that do not include art, morality, politics,

and everything. The resolution now includes everything related to civic government. We should treat the duties of citizenship in regard to orderliness and the beauties of environment.

MR. FLETCHER: We want some reference to the relationship of citizens to citizenship, and the relationship of citizens to cities.

SIR JOHN BURNET: I suggest "the duties of citizenship in relation to the amenities of our towns and cities, and the value of manual instruction in mental development." We are, *par excellence*, judges of that because we see it among our men.

The resolution, in these terms, having been agreed to, the third resolution was also put to the meeting and carried.\*

THE CHAIRMAN: Our Conference on this subject is now brought to a close, and the result is three resolutions to lay before the Council.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: A point I should like to mention is the general breakdown of our old corporations of mayors and common council as means of getting things done. Our sheriffs and aldermen are good and worthy people, but we have not much reverence in our hearts for them. Why not? Can we go on, do you think, with this amused despair at our institutions? Some method will have to be found for bringing new life and knowledge into all our towns, and I should like to see something like the Oberburgomeister introduced into England.

MR. JEMMETT: Will it be worth while to propose another conference and adjourn this to it?

MR. LANCHESTER: If any member has a subject that he wishes to bring up and ventilate, I hope he will bring it forward so that a conference may be held upon it if thought desirable. A conference can be arranged on any subject affecting our professional activities. We are all hoping the matters brought forward in recent conferences will not peter out, because there is much to be considered, and much on which we want advice from those who have ideas.

PROFESSOR LETHABY: There is the point mentioned by Sir John Burnet, the status of contracting firms. That is very important, I think.

MR. LANCHESTER: A man not a member of the profession said to me recently: "You architects are doing very little for your partners in the profession of building. You don't care how the men live who carry out your work." I think that might be a very good subject: to see if we can get out a programme that will enable us to do more.

MR. SIDNEY GREENSLADE [A.]: It is sad, when you get a clever foreman mason, plumber, fixer, and so on, that they are allowed to drift away from the building on which they have been engaged without a word of thanks. In days gone by, I believe, they were given a dinner, and the clerk of works had a present from the foreman. I have seen men who have been

\* The three resolutions as sent up to the Council are appended to this Report.

engaged on a building for five years simply allowed to drift away afterwards without a word of thanks. It seems a most distressing thing.

The following is the text of the resolutions as submitted to the Council:

*Resolution No. 1.*—The Conference wishes to suggest to the Council of the R.I.B.A. that the time has come when matters of public architecture should be their main concern, especially at the evening meetings and in education. It is desirable that a constructive policy for bettering all our towns be considered, as well as national housing and such questions. In promoting a policy of public usefulness the Institute might best find the way to its own proper development and status.

*Resolution No. 2.*—That the Institute should represent to the Minister of Education the importance of insisting, in all the universities and schools under his charge, on education in the duties of citizenship in relation to the amenities of our towns and cities, and the value of manual instruction in mental development.

*Resolution No. 3.*—That the Council of the R.I.B.A. should consider the possibility of developing its organisation on lines tending to bring members of the Institute into closer touch with each other and with all technical associations and those engaged on a constructive public policy.

Of these three resolutions the first was based on the Paper contributed by Professor Lethaby, the second on Mr. Halsey Ricardo's remarks, and the third on Mr. Lanchester's; and the Council appointed these three gentlemen as a sub-committee to draw up a memorial to be sent to the Minister of Education, as suggested in Resolution No. 2. The draft memorial was submitted to the Council and, after slight amendment, was passed in the following form and sent to the President of the Board of Education:

#### MEMORIAL.

*To the President of the Board of Education,—*

The Royal Institute of British Architects as a body examining candidates for admission to membership holds Intermediate and Final Examinations and admits students to the examinations who have qualified in various ways. This preliminary qualification is of the broadest possible character, but it is felt from experience gained in these examinations that the type of general education leading up to architecture and other related callings might be very greatly improved, if it is to develop on the best lines the mental outlook demanded by all those who may be engaged in the building industries. Moreover, apart from this particular aspect, there is the wider question of the national attitude towards corporate life and the demands of civilisation. In these respects the provisions we would ask for in education would be of no less value generally than as preparatory to the exercise of the large group of callings having to do with building.

The Royal Institute of British Architects, with these objects in view, welcomes—as of the highest importance—the policy of the Board of Education (as defined in the Code of Regulations, 1912) to encourage the natural activities of eye and hand by instruction in the

public and other elementary and secondary schools. It desires to emphasise the recognition that provision should be made for:

1. Training in the perception of the forms of things and in the principles of structure (natural and devised).

Drawing is not merely a matter of skill or of expression, but also a valuable means of observation during the exercise.

All must be taught to draw, and in doing so should practise on decorative and constructive subjects, fine lettering, typical forms of foliage, beasts, etc. Of late years there has been a tendency to get rid of "copies" under the idea that drawing was mainly an exercise to acquire skill in making portraits of objects in the round.

2. Practical manual work, which is of great importance for the development of all (and in many cases almost the only opening to) understanding. This form of education not only offers the pleasure of definite achievement but enables the worker to appreciate the value of good work in general. It is also beneficial in providing a form of exercise, mental and physical, in which the pupil can detect his own errors.

3. Teaching leading to a comprehension of common duties in relation to cleanliness and order in house and school, the streets, gardens, etc.

4. Some knowledge of the history, buildings, and general arrangement of the town and neighbourhood in which the children live, and of memorable citizens; a town spirit being probably the best basis on which to build up a national spirit.

5. Some exercises in the arrangement of simple material which might bring out the idea of design and strengthen initiative.

HENRY T. HARE, *President.*

H. V. LANCHESTER, } *Members of*

ARTHUR KEEN, } *Council.*

E. GUY DAWBER, *Hon. Secretary.*

A letter from the Board of Education dated the 6th July, acknowledging the receipt of the memorial, states that the views of the Royal Institute of British Architects will receive the careful consideration of the President of the Board.

#### Research in Building Science.

*Cambridge, August 1917.*

*To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—*

SIR,—Cambridge University is wishing, in connection with its Architectural School, to promote research in building science. May I call the attention of advanced students to what is being arranged to equip research and experiment in (1) the materials, (2) the processes, (3) the administrations of building?

I shall be pleased to give information to anyone who may wish to treat such questions experimentally in the interests of British art and science.—Yours, etc.,

EDWARD S. PRIOR [*F.*].

## CONTROL OF STREET ARCHITECTURE.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.,—

SIR,—I have read with much interest in the June number of the JOURNAL the report of the discussion on "The Control of Street Architecture." Although there appears to be some little difference of opinion as to the extent to which street architecture should be controlled, I gather the Council is being asked to take the matter up, with a view, presumably, to obtaining some statutory enactment on the subject.

The principle in question—the control of the elevations of buildings on land which may be freehold—has hardly yet been put before the public in such a manner as to secure immediate acceptance. On this account, and also because we architects are ourselves undecided as to the main lines even of any general scheme of control, it will be well not to attempt too much in the first instance. It will be agreed probably that it will be sufficient for the time to deal with London. A certain knowledge of the working of the administrative machine as affecting London streets and buildings induces me, now that the question of architectural control seems likely to be taken up, to put forward the outlines of a scheme. It is, admittedly, of a limited nature, but I believe that anything more elaborate is unlikely, for the moment, to meet with general assent.

I suggest the following as the "heads" of a statutory enactment affecting the control of London street architecture :—

That the enactment shall contain a scheduled list of streets and squares of importance, or of existing architectural interest, in the County of London ;

That any person desiring to erect, re-erect, or alter the elevation of a building in a scheduled street or square must make application, with drawings, to the London County Council for its approval ;

That the County Council, before dealing with any such application, shall obtain the views of the local Borough Council ;

That in the event of the application being refused by the County Council the applicant shall have the right to appeal to the Tribunal of Appeal ;

That in the event of the application being approved drawings shall be sent to the Borough Council, the R.I.B.A., and the London Society, any one of which bodies shall have the right to appeal, within a set limit of time, to the Tribunal of Appeal, to have the approval rescinded ;

That the Tribunal of Appeal, at present consisting of three members, one nominated by the R.I.B.A., one by the Surveyors' Institution, and one by the Government, shall be increased, when dealing with appeals regarding street architecture, to five members, the two additional members being nominated by the Royal Academy and the London Society respectively.

Some persons will doubtless criticise the proposal that the controlling authority shall be the London County Council. But this body is the duly constituted authority for regulating the municipal life of

London, and it is certain that any proposal to appoint another authority for the control of street architecture would meet with strong opposition. Given that there is the right of appeal in either instance—refusal or consent—and that the Tribunal of Appeal is strengthened by two additional members as proposed, the advantages of having the County Council as the controlling authority appear far to outweigh any objections.

As things are now, it is possible for any London street or square of architectural interest to be spoilt by the erection of a building in vulgar taste, or by one, in itself passable, specially designed to clash with its surroundings. This latter risk is an increasing one owing to the discovery by business men that architecture can so advantageously be made the slave of advertisement.

The proposals that I have outlined would involve no separate Act of Parliament, but could be embodied in one of the L.C.C. General Powers Acts that were an annual occurrence in pre-war days, and may be expected to be so again on the resumption of peace. After a few years' experience of the scheme proposed, it might be possible to prepare a workable solution of the much more difficult question of a wider and more co-ordinated control of street architecture.

HORACE CUBITT [A.].

## REVIEWS.

## BENCH ENDS.

*Bench Ends in English Churches.* By J. Charles Cox, LL.D., F.S.A. 8vo. London, 1916. 7s. 6d. net. [H. Milford, Oxford University Press.]

Although the title is confined to bench-ends, the book itself includes enclosed pews and galleries, and, as we might expect from such a skilled ecclesiologist as Dr. Cox, it is an eminently readable and instructive work. It is the latest addition to the series of "Art in the Church," volumes of which Mr. Francis Bond is the General Editor.

The book is divided into two parts. The first part contains four short chapters dealing with the history and uses of benches, pews and galleries ; the second, and larger portion, enumerates a large number of examples.

The earliest seats for congregational use in churches were probably stone benches along the walls inside, and round the piers of the arcades, a fair number of which have survived restorations. It appears likely that these benches were provided for the use of the aged and infirm, the general congregation standing or kneeling according to the early custom.

As early as the thirteenth century wooden seats were provided for the congregation, and even in those days the practice obtained of persons claiming private ownership of seats. In 1287, at a synod held at Exeter, an ordinance was made to check this abuse. Not many thirteenth-century seats have come down



to us, but a few may be found, as at Clapton-in-Gordano, Somerset, and at Gaddesby, Leicestershire. In churchwardens' accounts of the fifteenth century are various references to pews for congregational use; in the accounts of St. Peter Cheap, of 1447, there is an entry as to the "mending of a pew next the church door." The ends of the benches were often plain, especially in the earlier examples; a very large number, however, were richly panelled and carved. The bench-ends often have their tops terminating in finials, or as they are called, poppy-heads. This term has nothing to do with the poppy flower, but is derived from an old French word for the figure-head of a vessel. In a thirteenth-century MS. these finials are called *poupées*.

The separation of the sexes during worship goes back to the earliest Christian times, and in England the sexes were strictly separated in our old churches; many items in old churchwardens' accounts show this. In some churches certain pews are set apart for particular uses. We find mention made of the "shryv-yng pew," which was probably a seat for those waiting to make their confession; the "chyldewyffes" or churching pew, and also, in some cases, separate pews for matrons and maidens. This last arrangement must have had its advantages from the youthful point of view. At Chester-le-Street, in 1612, the churchwardens added still another special seat: "The churchwardens meeting for seeking for workmen to mak a seete in a convenient place for brydgrumes, brydes and sike wyves to sit in."

The custom of having doors to pews, with locks on them, was in use during the fifteenth century. In 1467, at St. Michael's, Cornhill, the churchwardens "payd to a smith for mayking of a lok to Maister Stokkens pew—viii<sup>d</sup>." This naturally led to occupations of pews putting their initials on the pews. Pews thus became private property, and were bought and sold. The custom of renting seats for exclusive use still continues, and will probably remain in use as a most convenient method of raising funds in unendowed churches.

Dr. Cox devotes a chapter to manorial pews, which he considers, with some probability, owe their origin to the use of chantry enclosures which were turned into pews after the chantries were abolished. Many of these pews were canopied and sumptuously furnished, and even, as at Rycote, Oxfordshire, of two storeys. Dr. Cox wrathfully comments on an eighteenth-century pew at Croft, North Riding, Yorks, which struck him "as the most ghastly and almost profane pew in the kingdom."

The short chapter on galleries is from the pen of Mr. Francis Bond, and may be taken as supplemental to the chapter on Galleries in his *Screens and Galleries* of the same series, published in 1908. There it was chiefly written from the musical point of view; in the volume before us the subject is treated historically. Galleries appear to have existed beneath western towers of some churches before the Reformation, but

the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were the great gallery-building period. Many good examples of seventeenth-century western galleries still remain, numbers of them highly enriched.

Part II., which includes about three-fourths of the volume, consists of alphabetical lists of seats and bench-ends, many of them illustrated, in 39 English counties, and also a number from Wales. The appearance of such a list is apt to repel a reader at first sight, but bench-ends do not readily lend themselves to being grouped in types or even periods of construction. These lists, however, will be found most instructive and interesting, as descriptions and illustrations are supplied whenever the subject is found worthy of it. They form the largest collection of good examples ever brought together, although no doubt readers can supplement them by many others not referred to.

The book contains 164 excellent photographic illustrations, the examples given having been carefully and judiciously selected of all types and periods. The work is fully indexed, and a useful bibliography is appended for the use of those who wish to pursue the subject further. It is a notable addition to our knowledge of Church Art.

A. WHITFORD ANDERSON [A.].

#### A HISTORY OF ORNAMENT.

*A History of Ornament Ancient and Medieval.* By A. D. F. Hamlin, A.M., Professor of the History of Architecture in Columbia University. 8°. New York and London, 1917. 15s. net. [B. T. Batsford, Ltd., 94, High Holborn.]

The acknowledged superiority of American architecture continues to manifest itself in their professional literature, thanks to an ever-increasing national tradition and progressive publishers. Works of outstanding merit are produced in a continuous stream worthy of our very careful study, and emphasise only too cruelly our own shortcomings. The success of the Album type of architectural book, to which recently the English publishers have pinned their faith, with its minimum of letterpress, its ease of production, its elimination of any necessity for critical writing, has swept away the chances for fine literature, and turned the publisher into an agent for photographs selected with a view to catching as many divergent ideals as possible. Now that this field is threadbare—the impossibility of continually finding new material and the discovery perhaps that it is bad business to purchase a book for the sake of a very few inspirations have reduced the purchasers to that section of the dilettanti public which is outside the profession—our publishers are turning to a country where logical expression and critical writing are understood and appreciated, and are glad to constitute themselves agents for what they have long despised.

Be that as it may, we welcome these American books with their untrammelled outlook and freedom from convention. Generally works on ornament have a cut at the designer and draughtsman as well as the

architect; but in this instance the architect receives primary consideration.

The ornament illustrated is largely sculptural, and little coloured decoration is included. One may criticise the omission of adequate coloured plates and the lack of "touch" in the draughtsmanship of many of the illustrations (for which the author apologises), also perhaps their selection with a view to showing "evolution" of ornament is not conducive to always showing the best examples, and a certain sacrifice has been made for the sake of more clearly illustrating the various points.

Previous works on ornament have largely of necessity consisted of collections of examples with scanty descriptive matter; the work under review rectifies a defect in this respect, and can be used in a complementary sense with Meyer's "Handbook" or "Racinet," "Owen Jones," &c. This first volume deals with the ancient mediæval styles only, and is to be followed by a second volume dealing with the Renaissance and modern styles. Whilst not propounding any new theories, it is a book to read and digest. It contains a *résumé* of all the usual accepted facts on evolution collected and expressed in simple terms. The ground covered is so vast that, although several of the parts are of a rather sketchy character, the volume reaches inspiring dimensions, and has 400 illustrations. It is a book to be sincerely recommended to the student who needs an insight into the structural skeleton of ornament.

ROBERT ATKINSON [F.].

#### OLD-TIME HOMESTEADS.

*The Old Cottages of Snowdonia.* By Harold Hughes and Herbert L. North. [Jarvis & Foster, publishers, Bangor.]

The production of this little book has evidently been a labour of love to the authors. The traditional methods of building and the development of these modest homesteads, most of which are now, unfortunately, in the last stages of decay, have been studied with a care and insight which have resulted in the production of a work which will commend itself to all who are interested in the question of the housing of our rural population, whether from an historical, an artistic or a practical point of view.

Is it unreasonable to express the hope that, in the newly acquired zeal in official circles for the preservation of our historic monuments, these humble evidences of the appreciative sense of our forefathers for the fitness and harmony of their buildings in relation to their surroundings will not escape notice? In these days of pressed brick, blue-slatted eyesores, dear to the heart of the speculative builder and others who might be credited with better taste, we cannot afford to lose a single example of the buildings, however lowly, which have been handed down to us from the days when resources were often limited and local tradition had not been destroyed by cheap transport.

The earliest actual examples of work of the cottage type, in the district under review, that have survived are ascribed by the authors to the latter part of the fourteenth or the early part of the fifteenth century, and the development in plan, the changes in the materials employed and the gradual evolution of conditions conducing to the comfort and health of the inmates are traced down to the end of the eighteenth or beginning of the nineteenth century.

The most interesting constructional feature, which appears to be characteristic of all the earlier examples given, is the form adopted for the principal rafters of the roofs. These are composed of two great curved pieces of oak, starting from stone bases on the floor against the side walls and meeting at the ridge, where they are halved and pinned and continued on a few inches in order to form a seating for the ridge-piece, which is set diagonally. In effect these timbers combine the principal rafter, wall-piece and curved brace of a roof truss in a single piece. In most instances they are connected by two horizontal ties. There can be little doubt, as the authors surmise, that this form of construction takes its derivation from the early hut, or wigwam, formed of boughs arranged in a circle and meeting at the top. Some considerable skill must have been exercised in the selection of trees suitable for conversion into timbers of the necessary size and form.

Another custom worthy of note is the primitive method of stopping wind and snow from entering the roof, between the thick, rough stone slates, by means of sphagnum moss, which was stuffed under the slates by the "moss man" with an iron bar flattened at one end.

The pleasing effect and absolute fitness for their purpose which are evinced in these cottages are, in a great measure, no doubt, due to enforced limitations as regards materials and primitive methods of construction, and the lesson they have to teach, as the authors of this book in their concluding remarks impress on us, is that, while utilising to the full the additional advantages we now possess, we should endeavour to observe always the same simplicity.

At the present time building operations are practically at a standstill as a necessary consequence of the war, but the period immediately following the cessation of hostilities will probably be one of considerable activity, particularly in connection with the housing of workers, and it is for us, as architects, to see that, so far as in us lies, the lessons taught by the study of these old buildings are not lost sight of. The first necessary step would appear to be to press for some modification of the Model Bye-laws, as applied to rural districts.

The illustrations, with which the book is freely supplied, are treated with a breadth and simplicity befitting the subject.

HERBERT PASSMORE [A.].

## HOWARD CHATFEILD CLARKE.

"Mr. Howard Chatfeild Clarke, F.R.I.B.A., died yesterday from heart failure, following pneumonia, brought about by overwork. He had recently been actively engaged with surveys and valuations made all over the country at the request of the Ministry of Munitions, for which he acted as honorary adviser to the Ministry.

"Mr. Chatfeild Clarke was the son of the late Mr. Thomas Chatfeild Clarke, also a distinguished architect, and was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects and past president of the Surveyors' Institution (1914-15). Many buildings in the City and West-end were erected from his designs, among them the new hall for the Cordwainers' Company. He was surveyor to the Fishmongers' and Cordwainers' Companies, and to several of the leading insurance companies.

"Mr. Chatfeild Clarke was educated at Clifton College, and married a daughter of the late J. J. Galt, of Fernhill Park, Isle of Wight. He leaves three sons and three daughters. Two of his sons have commissions in the Army, and one of them has been reported missing and wounded."

*The Times*, 15th July 1917.

## "ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR."

*A London burying affects those who take a part in it with a strange impression of unreality. The unfamiliar chapel, the undertakers marshalling the mourners and directing the procedure with business-like gravity; the swift motor-drive, interpolating a panorama of busy streets, the vast necropolis filled with unending ranks of similar headstones, produce in the observer a sense of pained detachment. It is as though we looked upon a pageant, to which a coffin was but the conventional accessory. Nothing is there of the comforting intimacy with which we accompany a dead friend to his place in a country churchyard; where the faces of those who carry him are known to us as they were to him, and the parson and the doctor have sat with us at his table, or ever they stood with us at his grave. Troubled by this strangeness of surroundings, I drew my thoughts inward while the minister said the words of his appointed office, and marked the reflections brightening and fading in the mirror of my memory.*

Howard Chatfeild Clarke, Fellow of the Royal Institute, whose funeral, on July 16th, it was my sad privilege to attend as the representative of our President and Council, was a man eminent in his profession. Born of the great unitarian Chamberlain-Nettlefold-Preston family of the Midlands, he inherited a gift for the successful conduct of affairs. His work was of the rather specialised kind implied by the term "city practice," and he was himself a fine type of a group—I had almost said "caste"—of our confraternity, who are not often seen among their colleagues at Conduit Street. My own acquaintance with him dates from a good many years since, when, drawn into one of those troublesome, anxious, semi-legal affairs which none of us may hope to avoid altogether in the course of long practice, I was urged by my old and honoured friend, Howard Colls, to consult Chatfeild Clarke. I have always been grateful for that advice; it led me

to appreciate Mr. Clarke's ability and technical knowledge at their true—and very high—value, and set up a sincere friendship between us which, incidentally, helped to clear my mind of much rubbish picked up in the art-schools of the 'seventies. A shrewd, courteous, and painstaking arbitrator, he was not infrequently entrusted with duties analogous to those of the *architecte-expert près les Tribunaux*; and, in Court, his sound judgment, imperturbable demeanour, and known integrity, secured respectful attention to his views by judges and counsel alike.

Such men as Chatfeild Clarke—the "architect and surveyor"—are the blood and marrow of the Institute. The designation covers, at a guess, five-sixths of its members; for those who are able to restrict their practice to purely architectural work are but few, and they moreover are, or should be, surveyors, in respect of its execution. The Surveyors' Institution took Chatfeild Clarke to their bosom, and made him their President. Their gain was our loss. He never, so far as I know, allowed himself to be nominated for a seat at our Council-table; yet, of the men now sitting there, not a half-dozen, perhaps, are more widely known than was Chatfeild Clarke. I had hoped that, his term as President of the Surveyors ended, he might have come forward. The counsel of such men as he would be invaluable to our polity, and their presence would supply a very needful contact-point with administrative authorities, who regard with invincible, if unjustified, mistrust the aspirations of those who profess and call themselves "artists." Discussing the subject one day with Chatfeild Clarke, I asked him why leading "city architects" stood aloof or, at least, indifferent; and he was disposed to find the cause in lack of continuity, the constant, and apparently capricious, changes in the Council under the system of yearly elections, which disincline many useful men to accept so uncertain a tenure.

Be this as it may, their absence is to be regretted; the wide diversity of functions exercised by its members might be more accurately reflected in the governing body. Our wise forefathers, when they defined the purpose of the Institute they founded, wrote firstly, *usui civium*, leaving *decori urbium* to the second place; and rightly so, for the importance of the former is incomparably the greater to the commonwealth.

Much more might be said, but not here. A distinguished colleague has passed away, in whom we mourn a loyal friend and a wise counsellor. Hope tempers our sorrow; hope that his example and memory may profit our beloved profession; that our ranks, as they close to fill the vacant place, may be locked in firmer unity. If one saith, I am of academic Paul; and another, I am of civic Apollos; the increase desired by the "wise masterbuilder" will, of a surety, be denied. We must all go forward together, science, art, and industry, shoulder to shoulder; for all these are of our fraternity, and nothing which

concerns the building is foreign to us. "He that planteth and he that watereth are one."

*So my thoughts drifted and dwindled. The faint scent of lilies came upon the breeze, and the whispering leaves stirred softly above the bier, as we stood, silent. It seemed strange that of him should have been exacted work beyond the limits of his strength, while many comrades stand idle and disheartened in the market-place, their wares unregarded by a nation intent on war.*

JOHN W. SIMPSON [F.].

### DAVID BARCLAY.

Mr. David Barclay, of the firm of H. and D. Barclay, died at his residence, Jordanhill, Glasgow, on 13th July, at the age of seventy-one years. The profession will mourn the loss of one of its most distinguished alumni, and Scottish architecture will miss the hand of an able exponent.

Mr. Barclay became a Fellow of the Institute in 1899, and served on the Council. He was President of the Glasgow Institute of Architects in 1900, a Vice-President of the Glasgow Art Club, a governor of the Glasgow School of Art, and a member of the Royal Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts. He took a prominent part in the Incorporation of Masons, of which he was Deacon, and was a manager of the Royal Glasgow Asylum for the Blind.

In a long and varied career Mr. Barclay designed and carried out many notable works of architecture in his native city of Glasgow and throughout Scotland. In association with his brother Hugh, he designed the Municipal Buildings of Greenock, whose lofty and dignified tower forms a landmark for the thronging entrants to the estuary of the Clyde. In the same town he erected the James Watt Memorial Building on the site of the birthplace of that illustrious Scot, and which appropriately serves the purpose of a navigation school for the mercantile marine. This building, designed in the Scottish Renaissance style, is regarded as one of the most charming in the town of Greenock, and is one upon which Mr. Barclay bestowed a bountiful share of consummate skill and loving interest.

Mr. Barclay was an architect of great versatility. His executed works comprise a wide variety of subjects, including domestic, ecclesiastical and commercial buildings. But it is in the sphere of educational institutions that he is justly to be regarded as pre-eminently distinguished. His school buildings are to be found almost everywhere throughout Scotland and his name will for all time be associated with the evolution and development of school-planning. Among these buildings, the following selection, taken at random, may convey some indication of the scope of his activity in this domain. He was architect for the Royal Technical College, Glasgow, erected at a cost of some £250,000, for which his plans were selected in competition; the Training College for Teachers,

Jordanhill, Glasgow; College of Hygiene and School Clinics, Dunfermline, for the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust; Technical, Higher Grade and Primary Schools, Dunfermline; Govan High School, Glasgow; Coatbridge Higher Grade School; Stranraer High School; Queen's Park Higher Grade School; Greenock Academy, the Glasgow Academy, and numerous schools for the Govan and Glasgow School Boards and for other Boards throughout the country.

In the realm of domestic architecture Mr. Barclay's activities were also considerably great. His executed work in this field comprises Balinakil Mansion House for the late Sir Wm. Mackinnon, Bart., extensive additions to Gartmore Mansion House for the late Sir Chas. Cayzer, Bart., M.P.; Whitehouse, Lamblash, and many other smaller residences in and around Glasgow. He was also the architect for the Sailors' Orphan Homes, Kilmacolm, a building which enhances the beauty of a pleasant landscape.

In church architecture Mr. Barclay's name is associated with some notable town churches, while in the realm of commerce many large warehouses and business premises were erected under his hand.

With regard to his attainments much might be said. A man of unerring judgment and endowed with highly developed powers of discernment, he was an extraordinarily expert planner, and no problem with which he was called to deal failed to find a rational solution. In the many works he won by competition it was this power of planning that often carried the victory; and, as he on one occasion remarked to the writer, to work out a difficult planning problem delighted him more than a game of chess.

In architectural design his work was based upon a sound traditional training in the styles, and a remarkably beautiful refinement of detail, particularly among his earlier works, reveals his fondness for the Classic. At the same time his work in the Gothic and Renaissance field displayed a real and sympathetic intimacy with these manners, and he delighted to linger upon an ancient cathedral church with pencil and sketch-book, which he employed with a facility that remained with him to the last. As a constructionist, too, his skill was great. Indeed, so fine were his conceptions of proportion and fitness to mechanical function, that his science, it might be said, with him was an art.

A just and generous man, a true Scot, adorned with the best attributes of his race, Mr. Barclay was respected by clients and contractors, esteemed by his friends, and admired by his colleagues as an exponent of what is best in architecture.

Glasgow.

C. S.

### GERALD HORSLEY.

In the last number of the JOURNAL Mr. Arthur Keen has contributed a very able and sympathetic appreciation of the late Gerald Horsley, with whom he worked for several years in Mr. Norman Shaw's office. I regret that, owing to a misunderstanding as to the



date of the publication, these few words of mine should not appear till so many weeks after his death.

I enjoyed a very close and intimate friendship with him for more than thirty years, and those who, like myself, knew him well will feel that by his death we have lost not only an accomplished architect and a very remarkable draughtsman, but a most upright and affectionate friend. I shall always treasure the memory of many little holidays we spent together in Italy, France and Belgium. Travelling is a great test of character, but my recollection of these times is that in all circumstances he was always an unselfish and cheerful companion.

If I were asked what were the most marked traits in his character, I should say single-mindedness, reliability and devotion to duty. Anything in the way of self-seeking was quite foreign to his nature, and whatever he did was done with unusual thoroughness. He undertook the work of Honorary Secretary to many committees and societies with a devotion which must have made very large demands on his time and strength.

Soon after the outbreak of the War he joined the Architects' Volunteer Battalion from a sense of duty and for the sake of example. It is to be feared that the severe physical strain he imposed on himself contributed largely to undermine a constitution which was unfitted for such exertions. But his example bore good fruit, and many young men followed him into the ranks and later joined the Army.

By his unassuming ways, his affectionate disposition, and his unfailing courtesy and kindness he had a great influence for good on all those who came into contact with him, and his loss will be deeply felt by a very large number of friends to whom he had endeared himself in countless ways.

ERNEST NEWTON [F.].

#### Air Raids.

Guildhall, E.C.2: 7th August, 1917.

To the Editor, JOURNAL R.I.B.A.—

SIR,—At a meeting at the Mansion House it was decided that the occupiers of certain buildings in the City should be asked to exhibit notices stating that the public could take refuge there. It was necessary to make a survey of the whole city as quickly as possible, and I should like to acknowledge in our JOURNAL the prompt and valuable assistance so kindly given by Messrs. Aickman, Max Clarke, Cross, Davidge, Gosling, Goldsmith, Hornblower, Lanchester, Marks, Martin Saunders, Shepherd, Stevens, Surrey, Lewis Solomon, Stenning, Tubbs, and Wigglesworth.

Yours obediently,

SYDNEY PERKS,

City Surveyor.



9 CONDUIT STREET, LONDON, W., 25th Aug. 1917.

### CHRONICLE.

#### The R.I.B.A. Record of Honour: Forty-sixth List.

##### *Fallen in the War.*

EATON, Captain CHARLES WILLIAM, Leicester Regiment [Associate, 1906]. Died of wounds. Aged 35.

WRIGHT Second Lieut. CECIL LAWRENCE, Royal Garrison Artillery [Associate, 1910]. Killed in action in France on 7th July. Aged 37.

APPLEBY, Second Lieut. SIDNEY DERRICK, Loyal North Lancashire Regt. [Student, 1913]. Missing, believed killed in action.

When last seen, Second Lieut. Appleby was gallantly leading his men between the German first and second lines. Then a shell burst close to his party, and neither the survivors nor subsequent search parties could find his body. "A very gallant officer and a great favourite with us all," writes his Company Captain. At the outbreak of the war Second Lieut. Appleby was on the staff of Messrs. Bradshaw, Gass, and Hope, of Bolton.

##### *Members' Sons.*

BOWLES, Sub-Lieut. GEOFFREY C., R.N.V.R. Killed in action. Son of Mr. Charles W. Bowles [F.].

Second Lieut. B. J. Bowles, of the Buffs, another son of Mr. Bowles, was killed last September.

FELLOWES PRYNNE, Second Lieut. NORMAN, Devon Regt. Reported missing and believed killed in action as from 24th April last. Fifth and youngest son of Mr. G. H. Fellowes Prynne [F.].

##### *Wounded; Awards, etc.*

Brigadier-General A. B. HUBBACK, C.M.G. [F.], was reported wounded in the list issued on 12th July.

Lieut. HARRY W. MANN [A.], who rejoined the Essex Yeomanry on mobilisation and went to France in November 1914, was wounded at Hooze in May 1915, received a commission in the R.F.A., in September 1915, was wounded at Loos in July 1916, gazetted Lieut. in January 1917, and was mentioned in Despatches in June last.

Second Lieut. E. A. RAHLES RAHBULA, R.F.A. [A.], has been awarded the Military Cross. "As forward observing officer to his battery he showed great fearlessness in laying out telephone wires across the open to exposed posts, from which he directed the fire of his



Lieut. GEORGE AUGUSTUS BLIGH LIVESAY, *Fellow*.  
South Wales Borderers.  
Killed in action (see p. 12).



2nd Lieut. STANLEY W. WOODLEY, *Student*.  
Royal Flying Corps.  
Killed in action (see p. 102).



Lieut. GEORGE WILFRED CALLENDER, *Associate*.  
Worcestershire Regiment.  
Killed in action (see p. 173).



Lieut. JOHN LUCAS WARRY, *Associate*.  
Sherwood Foresters.  
Killed in action (see p. 173).



Lieut. CHARLES ERNEST LOVELL, *Associate*.  
Royal Engineers.  
Died of wounds (see p. 173).



2nd Lieut. ALFRED WYATT PAPWORTH, *Associate*.  
Royal Engineers.  
Killed in action (see p. 150).



HENRY FRANKLIN PATERSON, *Probationer*.  
Hon. Artillery Company.  
Killed in action (see p. 29).



WILLIAM JACKSON PYWELL, *Associate*.  
Hon. Artillery Company.  
Killed in action (see p. 150).

battery. He also showed great skill and resource in destroying enemy entanglements by the fire of his battery, and by personal observation he was able to render the utmost help to his brigade."

Second Lieut. C. J. M. YOUNG, R.E., elder son of Mr. George P. K. Young, [F.], of Perth, has been awarded the Military Cross. "He made a strong point close to a village under heavy fire of all kinds. He commenced work while the village was still occupied by the enemy. By his rapid work the main position was made secure from counter-attacks." Mr. Young's younger son, a pilot in the R.F.C., was among the aviators engaged in the air above the spot where his elder brother was operating.

Captain PERCY T. RUXTON [A.] was mentioned in the *Gazette* for 21st June for valuable services in connection with the war.

#### *Serving with the Forces.*

The following have to be added to the list, bringing the total to 76 Fellows, 523 Associates, 321 Licentiates, and 297 Students:—

#### FELLOWS.

Pullar, E. J.: Indian Army Reserve of Officers.

#### LICENTIATES.

Paterson, Gavin: Lieut.-Col., Cameronians.

Wright, Osborn: A.S.C. Cadet Co.

Mackinnon, W.: Lieut., London Scottish.

Graham, P. H.: New Zealand Expeditionary Force.

#### STUDENTS.

Waller, T. J.: 2nd Lieut., Northumberland Fusiliers.

Harrison, F. C. S.: Durham Light Infantry.

#### *Promotions.*

Corporal Walter P. Rylatt [A.] has been granted a commission as Second Lieut. in the R.G.A. Special Reserve.

Hon. Lieut. R. P. Oglesby, Staff R.E.S. [*Licentiate*], serving in France, has been promoted Hon. Captain.

#### *To Architects claiming Exemption.*

Mr. Francis Hooper [F.] having suggested at the June Business Meeting that application should be made to the authorities to allow appeals of architects for exemption from military service to be adjudicated upon by a tribunal of architects sitting at 9 Conduit Street, the Council referred the matter to the Architects' War Committee. The matter was discussed at the Committee's Meeting on the 2nd August, but in view of the small number of architects now remaining to be dealt with and the general undesirability of interfering with the ordinary course of recruiting, the Committee decided to recommend the Council to take no action in the matter. It was suggested, however, that architects who have strong grounds for claiming exemption should communicate with the Secretary of the Institute, and their claims would then be dealt with and laid before the authorities if such a course seemed desirable.

#### *Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps.*

Sir Alfred L. Goodson, Director of Organisation, Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, asks for assistance in making known to suitable men who are, or will shortly be, free to

join the Colours the facilities his Corps offers for the training of suitable candidates. As a general rule, only men passed fit for General Service will be considered, but occasionally a small number of vacancies occur for men classified B 1 and C 1. Only men whose physical health and other very special qualifications in the opinion of the Selection Board fit them for commissions in Labour and such like Battalions can be considered for these. The Corps trains primarily for Infantry, but frequent opportunities occur for men to be selected for Artillery and the Royal Flying Corps, and occasionally men are passed out for other branches of the Army, such as the Cavalry, Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, and Army Ordnance Department. Suitable recruits desiring Commissions in the Mounted Units of the Army may also be accepted for training in the Mounted Branch of the Corps, "The Inns of Court Troop," at present attached to a Reserve Cavalry Regiment at Tidworth. Candidates are advised to come before the Selection Board about one month before they become liable for service with the Colours. Uniform, boots, accoutrements, underclothing and other necessities are issued free. After posting, recruits are sent to join the Corps at Berkhamsted, where they receive pay at the usual Army rates. Full particulars may be obtained from the Officer Commanding, Inns of Court Officers' Training Corps, 10 Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, W.C.

#### *Working-Class Housing Schemes and Architects.*

Having been requested by Mr. Hayes Fisher to appoint a representative of the Institute to serve on the Committee which has been set up by the Local Government Board to consider various technical questions in connection with the building of the large number of houses for the industrial classes that will be required after the war, the President has nominated Sir Aston Webb, who has accepted the position. The other members of the Committee are Sir John Tudor Walters, M.P. (Chairman), Sir Charles Allom, Mr. F. Paines, M.V.O., Mr. James Boyton, M.P., Mr. William Fairley, M.Inst.C.E., Mr. G. Marlow Reed, Mr. J. Walker Smith, A.M.Inst.C.E., Mr. J. Squires, and Mr. Raymond Unwin [F.]. Mr. E. Leonard, of the Local Government Board, is Secretary.

A Committee of the Institute has been constituted by the Council and is now sitting to consider the whole matter of the housing question from the architect's point of view. The Committee consists of the President, the Hon. Secretary, Sir Aston Webb, Professor Patrick Abercrombie, Professor Adshead, Mr. W. R. Davidge, Mr. W. A. Harvey (Birmingham), Mr. Arthur Keen, Mr. H. V. Lanchester, Mr. D. B. Niven, Mr. G. Gilbert Scott, Mr. John W. Simpson, Mr. H. D. Searles Wood, Mr. George Hubbard, F.S.A., and Mr. Percy B. Tubbs. The Allied Societies have been invited to nominate representatives to serve on the Committee. A suggestion by the Manchester Society that separate local committees of the Allied Societies should be formed to deal with local schemes and to keep in touch with the Central Committee in London met with the Committee's approval and they have recommended its adoption.





2nd Lieut. HERBERT SAMUEL TAYLOR,  
Oxford and Bucks Light Infantry.  
Reported wounded and missing,  
believed killed (see p. 189).



2nd Lieut. JAMES MONTEITH McLEAN, *Student*,  
Highland Light Infantry.  
Killed in action (see p. 222).



WILLIAM ARTHUR RIGG, *Associate*,  
Middlesex Regiment.  
Killed in action (see p. 221-222).



2nd Lieut. ALFRED GEOFFREY BEVILLE, *Probationer*,  
London Regiment.  
Killed in action (see p. 189).

### R.I.B.A. Research : The Problem of Dry Rot.

In the last Annual Report mention was made of the Research Committee which the Council had appointed to act in conjunction with the Government Advisory Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research and various other bodies engaged in research work for the investigation of problems requiring solution in regard to the use of building materials. One of the most important subjects taken up by the R.I.B.A. Committee is that of Timber in Relation to Decay and Preservation, and the Government Research Committee having invited their suggestions, the Committee drew up and submitted to them a memorandum urging that a liberal grant should be voted for the purpose of research into the Causes and Prevention of Dry Rot in Timber, on the following grounds :—

I. *Danger to Life*.—Dry rot destroys the fibres of the timber, with the result that the stability of buildings in which dry rot has occurred is often endangered.

II. *Annual Loss*.—The annual loss both to the private individual and to the community is very considerable. It is not possible to indicate the actual amount of such loss, as no statistics are available, but it is unquestionable from the number of cases annually reported by architects that the disease is very prevalent, and that an enormous number of buildings throughout the country are infected with dry rot in some form or other.

III. *Reasons for Increase in Prevalence of Dry Rot*.—A very large proportion of the "constructional" (as opposed to "decorative") timber used in this country is imported from Norway, Sweden, and Russia, and owing in great part to the depletion of the more favourably situated forests a greater amount of immature, dead, and otherwise unsuitable timber has been imported during the last few years than formerly.

This unsuitable timber is much more liable to the attack of the dry rot fungus than timber of better quality.

Further, as the disease is contagious, it is very probable that the ships used for carrying timber may be infected from a load of diseased timber and communicate it to successive loads otherwise sound.

Infection of sound timber may also occur in timber yards in this country.

IV. *Amount of Saving Resulting from Research*.—As it is impossible to state with any accuracy the annual loss resulting from the disease, so it is impossible to indicate what saving would be effected. It is unquestionable, however, that the money spent on research work would be repaid to the community in a very few years owing to the saving of timber.

V. *Scheme of Research*.—A definite detailed scheme of research would cover the following points among others :—

(1) Investigation as to how many kinds of dry rot exist, their characteristics, and the conditions determining their infection and growth.

(2) Investigation as to whether dry rot can occur in the living tree, and if so,

(a) What can be done to cure the disease.

(b) What can be done to inoculate the tree against the disease.

(c) Whether it is possible for one tree to infect another in the forest.

(3) Investigation into the efficacy of various antiseptics, including various methods of treatment, as regards the prevention, destruction, elimination, in-

cubation, and growth of the fungus, commercial cost being considered as well as toxic properties.

(4) Discovery of suitable new antiseptics.

(5) Investigation into what extent natural or artificial drying or seasoning of timber is effective in killing, reducing, or preventing the disease.

(6) Investigation into the length of time that the spores of the disease can remain latent in the timber awaiting a suitable environment for recrudescence.

(7) Investigation into what extent the spores of the disease can pass through the pores of concrete, brick, stone, etc.

(8) The effect of environment and soil in producing timber having a susceptibility towards dry rot.

(9) Investigation into the effect of temperature on the life of the spores.

(10) Investigation into the methods of transmission of dry rot, and the possibility of sound timber becoming infected in the holds of ships in transit.

VI. *Locality of Research Centre and Scope of Work*.—It is suggested that research and investigation into the matters above mentioned—with the exception of those actually concerned with the living tree—could most suitably be carried out at an Institute specifically founded for the investigation of dry rot, preferably working in conjunction with, or attached to, an existing institution already possessing technical experts in these subjects. It may be mentioned that such an Institute has been founded in Germany, and endowed with proper buildings and equipment.

It would be advisable for such an Institute to have its own separate and independent governing body, which should be largely composed of practical men.

Such an Institute should work in fullest collaboration with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Board of Trade, H.M. Department of Woods and Forests, H.M. Office of Works, and the Imperial Institute; and should be in constant touch with the various professional associations such as the Royal Institute of British Architects, the Surveyors' Institution, the Institute of Builders, etc.

Such an Institute should have its literary-extracting department, where a complete record should be kept of the various books, pamphlets, lectures, etc., both in English and in foreign languages, on the subject of dry rot. In fact one of its first duties might usefully be the translation into English (and a "digest" therefrom) of such a standard work as exists in the German language as *Hausschwamm Forschungen* (published by Gustav Fischer at Jena, 1907-13, and edited by Professor Dr. A. Möller, in six or seven volumes).

It should also have its publicity department, where the results of its researches, incorporated with the knowledge obtained from foreign publications and from research work in foreign countries, might be periodically issued. In fact, the issue of a monograph from time to time on the knowledge obtained up to date appears to be the natural sequence of the research, and one of its most useful and important functions. For this reason, as well as for others, the scope of the research scheme should be permanent. It is considered that it will take many years before the subject is sufficiently well understood to ensure that the evil may eventually be eradicated.

The cost of founding an Institute on the above lines and the annual grant required to carry on the work, would be matters for further consideration if the Government Advisory Committee approve of the suggestions above put forward.

**America and the War: International Greetings.**

The following letters have passed between the Royal Institute of British Architects and the American Institute of Architects:—

14th June 1917.

*To the President and Council of the American Institute of Architects,—*

GENTLEMEN,—Probably no group of Britons has been wont to enjoy a closer bond of intimacy and mutual understanding with its corresponding group across the Atlantic than that which has so long and so happily subsisted between the architects of your great country and of ours.

For this reason, if for no other, it seems natural to us to yield to a very evident desire among our members, the desire to give expression to the cordial and affectionate satisfaction which we feel in the recent practical evidences of close community between our nations.

The world-struggle, a fight not on our side for material possessions but for the maintenance of those ideals which are the most precious heritage of man, is, as we all feel, not one in which the exponents of our art are without interest.

Architecture, the least luxurious and the most humane of the arts, can never be aloof from the deeper and worthier instincts of mankind. We feel confident, therefore, that if we, as representing in our degree the architects of Great Britain, send you at this momentous juncture a word of heartfelt international greeting you will not think that we are departing from the proper functions of a professional Institute.

Had we any doubt on this point, that doubt would be removed by our remembrance of the remarkable utterances of Mr. Cram, in October 1914, and the comments of Mr. Clipston Sturgis on the position of England in the War, which, together with other expressions by American architects on the subject, have been very eagerly read and warmly appreciated here.

Gentlemen, the heart of England has been warmed by America's action. We British architects are not the slowest to feel that warmth; and knowing that with you, too, the pulse of national life is strong, we feel a lively satisfaction in sending to you—as architects to architects—our very cordial welcome and our acknowledgment of profound pleasure in this union of the already kindred races.

In conclusion, we would beg that, so far as it may be practicable, you will regard this message of ours as a message to the general body of architects in the United States.

With renewed expressions of brotherly goodwill,

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours very faithfully,

ERNEST NEWTON, *President.*

HENRY T. HARE, *President-Elect.*

PAUL WATERHOUSE, *Vice-President.*

E. GUY DAWBER, *Hon. Secretary.*

The following reply has been received from the American Institute:—

*The Octagon, Washington, D.C. 12th July 1917.*

*To the President and Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects,—*

GENTLEMEN,—True it is that the exponents of our art, as represented by the Royal Institute of British Architects on the one side of the Atlantic and by the American Institute of Architects on the other, have happily enjoyed that very real understanding and that close bond of intimacy which spring from a unity of purpose and of ideals.

At the moment when our country has announced to the world, and especially to our autocratic enemy, its common interest with your great country and our other Allies, your warm welcome is deeply appreciated.

Through the long months and years of your self-sacrificing struggle, when the words and acts of many of our profession betokened a sympathy which official neutrality could not stifle, our hearts have bled not alone for the lives so freely given of the youth of promise in our profession, but for the wanton destruction of those monuments of our art which age and tradition have made our common heritage.

And through these months of the duration of our war for the maintenance of those ideals which make of the world a worthy and happy dwelling-place for man, we have longed for the striking of that inevitable hour when we might stand shoulder to shoulder, brothers in arms as well as brothers in art, while our country, slow to anger, perhaps, but flaming at its core with a burning conviction of the righteousness of our common purpose, might throw its pent-up energy into the fray which threatened the liberties of the civilised world.

And so to you, Gentlemen of the Royal Institute of British Architects, greeting and heartfelt appreciation of the impulse which prompted your ringing words of welcome, and with our greeting comes a reciprocating impulse to extend our eager hands to you across the sea which no longer separates us.

With renewed thanks for your message of welcome into the true brotherhood of man, we are,

Yours very faithfully,

JOHN LAWRENCE MAURAN, *President.*

WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, *Secretary.*

The Council have offered the hospitality of the Institute to American architects on service who find themselves on this side of the Atlantic and within convenient reach of London, and have extended to them certain privileges of membership, such as the use of the Institute premises and Library and attendance at meetings and other functions. They are also given the opportunity of borrowing books from the Loan Collection. It is hoped that members of the Institute coming in contact with American architects will make this offer known to them.

### Chair of Architecture, University of Sydney, N.S.W.

Applications are invited for the chair of architecture at Sydney University, New South Wales. The salary is £900 per annum and £100 allowed for travelling expenses to Sydney. A pension of £400 per annum under certain conditions will be granted after twenty years' service. Duties commence in March 1918. Particulars may be obtained from the Agent-General for New South Wales, Sydney House, 26-27 Cockspur Street, London, S.W.1, to whom applications stating age and qualifications, and accompanied by references and ten copies of three recent testimonials should be sent not later than Thursday, 1st November 1917.

### Members' Appointments.

Mr. ARTHUR T. BOLTON, F.S.A. [F.], *Some Medallist* (1893) and *Institute Essay Medallist* (1895), has been appointed Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum, Lincoln's Inn Fields, in succession to the late Mr. Walter L. Spiers.

Mr. H. P. BURKE DOWNING [F.] has been appointed Diocesan Surveyor for the Diocese of Chichester in succession to Mr. Lacy W. Ridge, who has resigned after holding the appointment for nearly fifty years.

## THE EXAMINATIONS.

### The Intermediate Examination.

The Intermediate Examination, qualifying for registration as Student R.I.B.A., was held in London from the 1st to the 8th June. Of the six candidates examined, three passed and three were relegated. The passed candidates, who have been registered as Students, are as follows, the names being given in order of merit:

GUNSTON: Edward Leslie [P. 1913]; Alpenrose, Kidmore, Reading.  
WADDICAR: Arnold [P. 1915]; Laburnum House, Pool Street, Bolton.  
CLARK: Richard John Bond [P. 1912]; 24 Lanoweth Road, Penzance.

### Exemptions from the Intermediate.

The following Probationers, having produced satisfactory evidence of their training and qualifications, were exempted from sitting for the Intermediate Examination and have been registered as Students:

BUTTERWORTH: Harold; 49 Sherbourne Road, North Shore, Blackpool. (Manchester University.)  
BYROM: Richard [P. 1915]; 223 Tottington Road, Elton, Bury. (School of Art, Manchester.)  
CHAUDHURI: Arya Kumar [P. 1915]; 34 Bedford Square, W.C. (Architectural Association.)  
DHUPKAR: James John [P. 1916]; c/o Consulting Architect, P.W.D., Fort, Bombay. (Sir J. J. School of Art, Bombay.)  
GREGORY: Hubert [P. 1919]; Woodburn, Ben Rhydding, Yorks.  
HOLT: Felix [P. 1914]; 15 Hamilton Road, New Brighton, Cheshire.  
HUDSON: Lieut. Philip Sidney [P. 1913]; Royal Hospital, Chelsea.  
JENNINGS: Gordon Sothan [P. 1912]; Silverdale, Bloomfield Road, Moseley, Birmingham. (Birmingham Municipal School of Art.)  
KELLY: Michael Richard [P. 1913]; Sunnyside, Marlboro' Park, Belfast. (University of Liverpool.)  
McMICHAEL: Alastair Marshall; Bank House, Callander. (Glasgow School of Architecture.)  
MASON: Harold Clayforth [P. 1917]; Kelsick Road, Ambleside. (Liverpool University.)

MOUNTAIN: Albert Horace; 46 St. Julian's Avenue, Newport, Mon.  
PADGET: Montague William [P. 1914]; 21 Park Square, Newport, Mon. (Newport Technical Institute.)  
POTDAR: Vasant Chintaman [P. 1917]; Bombay Road, Thana, Bombay. (Bombay School of Art.)  
PRIEST: Alfred Llewellyn [P. 1915]; 17 South Luton Pl., Adamsdown, Cardiff. (Cardiff Technical College.)  
REIXA: Frederico [P. 1914]; 27 Ennismore Avenue, Chiswick. (Architectural Association.)  
REMNANT: Eustace Archibald [P. 1914]; 185 Croydon Road, Anerley, S.E. (L.C.C. School of Building.)  
SAO: Shantaram Shamrao [P. 1917]; 2nd Chuni Bhatti, Kurla, Thana, Bombay. (Bombay School of Art.)  
SEERVAI: Jehanbax Framroze [P. 1917]; 41 Bazar Gate, Fort, Bombay.  
TEASDALE: John Stuart [P. 1914]; Church Road Charlwood, Surrey.  
TURBS: Grahame Burnell [P. 1912]; 2 Moor Street Cadogan Square, S.W. (Architectural Association.)  
WOODHOUSE: Francis Pery Mark [P. 1912]; Southmead, Wimbledon Park. (Architectural Association.)  
YARDLEY: James Howard [P. 1915]; Rathmore, Stourbridge. (Malvern College, Worcester.)

The following Probationers serving with the Forces who are eligible for the Intermediate Examination and whose Testimonies of Study have been approved, have also been exempted:

ATHRON: Thomas Sydney [P. 1912]; 48 Christ Church Road, Doncaster. (Royal Fusiliers.)  
BAILEY: Clarence Howard [P. 1914]; "Hillside," Skegby, near Mansfield, Notts. (Royal Engineers.)  
BURFORD: James [P. 1911]; 37 Lee Park, Blackheath. (Artists' Rifles.)  
EVANS: Eric E. [P. 1911]; c/o Matthew Honan, Esq., 36 Dale Street, Liverpool.  
FERGUSON: J. S. [P. 1916]; (Royal Engineers.)  
HAYWOOD: Algar Arthur Newton [P. 1915]; 25 Farm Street, Mayfair, W. (R.N.V.R.)  
LAWRENCE: Henry Matthew [P. 1915]; 22 Marmion Street, Tamworth.  
LAWSON: Edwin Maddeson [P. 1915]; Fairfield, Ivanhoe Terrace, Chester-le-Street, Durham. (R.N.D.)

### The Final and Special Examinations.

The Final and Special Examinations were held in London from the 21st to the 29th June. Of the 13 candidates admitted, 4 passed, and the remaining 9 were relegated. The successful candidates are as follows:

BEESTON: Humphrey Albert [Special]; Public Works Ministry, State Buildings, East Division, Cairo.  
HENRIQUES: Elias Cosmas [S. 1915]; 21 Cromwell Road, S.W.  
RAYSON: Thomas [S. 1914]; 179 Park Lane, Tottenham, N.17.  
STAINSBY: George Pawson [S. 1912]; 2 Sutton Street, Durham.

### Contents of this Issue.

	PAGE
Architecture and Civilisation [Halsey Ricardo, W. E. Vernon Crompton, H. V. Lanchester, H. M. Fletcher, Sir J. J. Burnet]	225
Research in Building Science [F. S. Prior]	235
Control of Street Architecture [Horsea Cauti]	236
Reviews.—Bench Ends [A. Whifford Anderson].—A History of Ornament [Robert Atkinson].—Old-Time Homesteads [Herbert Passmore]	236
Howard Chaffield Clarke [John W. Simpson]	239
David Barclay [C. S.]	240
Gerald Horsley [Ernest Newton]	241
Chronicle.—R.I.B.A. Record of Honour.—To Architects claiming Exemption.—Inns of Court O.F.C.—Workingclass Housing Schemes.—The Problem of Dry Rot.—America and the War: International Greetings.—Chair of Architecture, Sydney University	241
The Examinations.—Results	248

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